

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 EURE-00 SY-10 M-03 A-01 OPR-02

NEA-10 OMB-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 CU-04 OC-06 CCO-00 RSR-01 /141 W

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P R 021555 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7929

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINS, PO

SUBJECT: MAY DAY

REFS: (A) LISBON 1572 (B) LISBON 1555

1. SUMMARY: STRONG SECURITY MEASURES, INCLUDING POLICE WARNING IN PRESS AND FULLY MOBILIZED SECURITY FORCES, FRUSTRATED PLANNED MAY DAY DISTURBANCES IN LISBON AND OPORTO. IN LISBON WATER CANNON AND RIOT POLICE ROUTED LARGE GATHERING CALLED BY PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION, WHILE IN OPORTO PLANNED MASS MEETING WAS PREVENTED. IN LISBON THERE WERE SOME ARRESTS AND INJURIES; IN OPORTO SLIGHT PROPERTY DAMAGE. MOST SIGNIFICANT MAY 1 INCIDENT THUS FAR KNOWN IS BOMBING OF CORPORATIONS MINISTRY (REF A).
END SUMMARY

2. MAY 1 MORNING PRESS CARRIED STRONGLY WORDED COMMUNIQUE FROM SECURITY POLICE (DGS). COMMUNIQUE CLOSELY LINKED
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CANISTER PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN (REF B) TO STUDENT MOVEMENT COMPOSED OF EXTREMIST GROUPS BENT ON VIOLENT SUBVERSION. COMMUNIQUE REPORTED 8 7 MEMBERS OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS HAD BEEN ARRESTED THIS YEAR, AND A STUDENT- RUN PRINTING PRESS SEIZED. POLICE REVEALED NAMES OF EIGHT STUDENTS ARRAIGNED FOR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES, AND STATED THEY HAVE IDENTIFIED 344 STUDENTS FROM OPORTO AND COIMBRA WHO HAVE BEEN IMPLICATED IN DAMAGING SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND BANKS, PART OF CONTINUED CAMPAIGN OF SUBVERSIVE PROPAGANDA AND AGITATION. COMMUNIQUE SAID DGS HAS ORDERED THE ARREST OF PERSONS " GRAVELY IMPLICATED " IN ACTIVITIES OF " SOCIALIST , ANARCHIST AND COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS." IN CLOSING STERN WARNING, POLICE FORBADE PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS MAY 1, AND - OMINOUSLY - SAID DEMONSTRATORS WOULD BE ARRESTED AND HANDED OVER TO DGS.

3. ATTEMPT TO HOLD MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION IN PRINCIPAL DOWNTOWN LISBON SQUARE ROUGHLY BROKEN UP BY POLICE. LARGE CROWD (ESTIMATED 1,000 YOUTHS, 2,000 CURIOUS PASSERS- BY) HAD GATHERED ABOUT 1930 HOURS IN RESPONSE TO CALL MADE IN RECENTLY DISTRIBUTED ANTI- GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA FLYERS. ALTHOUGH NO DEMONSTRATION ACTUALLY TOOK PLACE, POLICE WATER CANNON TRUCK MADE SWING THROUGH SQUARE AT 1935 EASILY DISPERSING ALL PRESENT. FOR NEXT HOUR HEAVILY REINFORCED REGULAR POLICE (200), SPECIAL RIOT POLICE (200), ELEMENTS OF GUARDS NACIONAL REPUBLICANA, AS WELL AS SOME PLAINCLOTHESMEN AND EVEN A FEW UNIFORMED SOLDIERS RUSHED ELEMENTS OF CROWD WHICH HAS REASSEMBLED AND WERE SHOUTING EPITHETS FROM SAFE DISTANCE. POLICE, WHO NEVER LOST CONTROL OF SITUATION, MADE SOME ARRESTS (FOREIGN JOURNALIST SOURCE SAYS 40) AND SEIZED AT LEAST ONE LARGE BUNDLE APPARENTLY CONTAINING ANTI- GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA. SOME PARTICIPANTS WERE INJURED; OFFICIAL FIGURES UNAVAILABLE, AS IS NEWS OF OTHER MAY DAY ACTIVITIES DUE TO PRESS HOLIDAY.

4. AMCONSUL OPORTO REPORTS THAT HEAVY SECURITY CONCENTRATION AND RAIN LIMITED PLANNED DEMONSTRATION IN DOWNTOWN AREA. IN OUTLYING AREAS OF CITY PROPAGANDA STICKERS WERE DISTRIBUTED AND ABOUT 30 YOUTHS RAMPAGED, BREAKING HALF DOZEN BANK WINDOWS. IN NEARBY MATOSINHOS POLICE REPORTEDLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LOCATED AND DISARMED BOMB.
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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